

1 **REMARKS**

2 In response to the Office Action mailed July 27, 2004, Applicant has amended the
3 pending claims above, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of
4 claims 1-11, and consideration of newly added claims 12-15, in view of the above amendments
5 above and the remarks which follow.

6 This Amendment is accompanied by a Petition for Three Month Extension of
7 Time, and by payment of the required extension fee.

8 This Amendment is also accompanied by a Request For Entry of Formal Drawings
9 into the present application, and by two sheets of such formal patent drawings.

10 This Amendment is also accompanied by a Supplemental Information Disclosure
11 Citation form, supplementing the original Information Disclosure Citation form filed on
12 April 29, 2004. A copy of a foreign patent reference cited therein is also enclosed. Applicant
is also enclosing payment of the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

13 Within the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 4 on formal grounds,
14 contending that the phrase "said dielectric", appearing in line 2 of claim 4, has no antecedent
15 basis. Applicant notes, however, that line 1 of claim 4 states "said cable having a dielectric".
16 Applicant submits that this language in line of claim 4 provides an appropriate antecedent
17 basis for the phrase "said dielectric" appearing in line 2 of claim 4. Accordingly, Applicant
respectfully submits that no correction is required.

18 On the other hand, in reviewing the pending claims, Applicant noted that a word
19 ("with") was inadvertently omitted from pending claim 6, and claim 6 has been amended
20 above to insert such missing word.

21 The Examiner rejected pending method claims 1-6 as describing subject matter
22 considered by the Examiner to be obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of the disclosure
23 within U.S. Patent No. 4,126,372 ("Hashimoto"). Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the
24 coaxial cable has an outer diameter, and that the step of "flaring an end portion of said outer
25 conductor" forms a "flared portion of the outer conductor". Claim 1 has also been amended to
26 recite that the length of such "flared portion" of the outer conductor is smaller than the outer
27 diameter of the coaxial cable. Referring to Fig. 2 of Applicant's patent drawings, it will be
28 seen that coaxial cable 5 has an outer diameter, as defined by the outer diameter of outer
insulating jacket 14. Moreover, Applicant's specification states, at page 4, lines 14-15, that the

1 “length of the flared portion of the outer conductor is preferably less than the diameter of the
2 cable”.

3 In contrast, Fig. 3 of the patent drawings in the cited Hashimoto patent shows that
4 the flared portion of outer conductor 1 extends for a length that far exceeds the outer diameter
5 of coaxial cable 2. Indeed, the flared portion of outer conductor 1 extends the full length of
6 outer surface 17 of truncated cone 20, and then continues into groove 21 underneath annular
7 locking ring 25. In describing the operation and use of such connector, Hashimoto states that
8 “the outer conductor [1] of the coaxial cable [2] is deformed over the cone shaped member
9 [20]”, and that the “locking ring [25] is then slid over the cone shaped member [20] and the
10 outer conductor [1] and locks a portion of the outer conductor [1] in the groove [21]”; see
Hashimoto specification, col. 1, line 66, through col. 2, line 2.

11 In view of the foregoing description of the operation and use of the Hashimoto
12 connector, it would not have been obvious to modify the structure shown by Hashimoto to
13 shorten the length of the flared portion of outer conductor 1. Indeed, shortening of the length
14 of the flared portion of the outer conductor of Hashimoto’s structure would directly contradict
15 Hashimoto’s teachings. Hashimoto requires that the flaring angle of the outer conductor be
16 gradual, since Hashimoto relies upon cone shaped member 20 to flare out the end of outer
17 conductor 1. Additionally, Hashimoto requires that the flared portion of outer conductor 1 to
18 extend all the way to the groove 21 so that locking ring 25 can clamp the flared portion of
outer conductor 1 within groove 21.

19 For these reasons, Applicant’s method for attachment of a coaxial cable to a coaxial
20 connector, as recited by amended claim 1, would not have been obvious to those skilled in the
21 art based upon the teachings of Hashimoto. Accordingly, claim 1, and dependent claims 2-6
22 dependent therefrom, should be considered to be patentably distinct over Hashimoto.

23 Within the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7-11 under 35 U.S.C.
§102(b) as describing subject matter which the Examiner considered to be anticipated by the
24 Hashimoto patent. Independent claims 7 and 11 have both been amended above to state that
25 the recited coaxial connector is “for attachment to a coaxial cable”; and that the coaxial cable
26 includes an outer conductor having a predetermined outer diameter.

27 Claims 7 and 11 have been further amended to recite that the back nut includes an
28 internal bore for passage of the coaxial cable, and that at least a portion of such internal bore

1 has an internal diameter commensurate with the outer diameter of the outer conductor of the
2 coaxial cable. For example, referring to Fig. 2 of Applicant's patent drawings, the portion of
3 back nut 3 that is adjacent to the portion of cable 5 where dielectric 13 terminates has
4 essentially the same internal diameter as the outer diameter of outer conductor 12.

5 Finally, claims 7 and 11 have both been amended to recite that the first angled
6 contact face of the outer terminal, and the second angled contact face of the back nut, each
7 have a length that is shorter than the aforementioned internal diameter of the back nut (and
8 hence, shorter than the outer diameter of the outer conductor of the coaxial cable).


9 In contrast, both outer surface 17 of Hashimoto's cone shaped member 20, and
10 inner surface 28 of Hashimoto's clamping member 27, both have a length which exceeds the
11 outer diameter of outer conductor 1 of Hashimoto's cable 2. Once again, because Hashimoto
12 relies upon the angled outer surface 17 of cone shaped member 20 to deform outer conductor 1
13 into a flared shape, and because Hashimoto stresses the importance of creating a relatively
14 long flared portion of the outer conductor to reach groove 21 and locking ring 25, it would be
15 directly contrary to Hashimoto's teachings to attempt to shorten the lengths of outer surface 17
16 or inner surface 28.

17 Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that apparatus claims 7-11, as
18 amended above, along with new method claims 12-15 describe subject matter that is
19 patentably distinct from the disclosure of the cited Hashimoto patent.
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1 In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present
2 application is now in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly requested.

3 Respectfully submitted,

4 CAHILL, VON HELLENS & GLAZER P.L.C.

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7 Marvin A. Glazer

8 Reg. No. 28,801

9 155 Park One
10 2141 East Highland Avenue
11 Phoenix, Arizona 85016
12 Ph. (602) 956-7000
13 Fax (602) 495-9475
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